



Office of the President

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF NEW COLLEGE

MARCH 1, 1965

In its fifth year, New College stands at a milepost as important in measuring its past achievements as it is decisive in plotting its future. I would like to share some details of this position with you.

At the founding of New College, its designers stated the theme of development as one of academic excellence. No one could foresee precisely how such a goal would be achieved, but those founders outlined certain broad policies as guides. Today we know the college has indeed grown in the directions set forth at the founding, and here are the facts that help us make that judgment:

STUDENTS: The first of the Charter Classes enrolled in September, 1964, numbering 101 students. More than 20 ranked either first or second in their secondary schools. Seventy-five were in the top 10 per cent of their classes. They came from 28 states, the District of Columbia and three foreign countries. The Charter students represent excellence in many areas: for example, one is among the 121 young Americans honored by Lyndon Johnson as a Presidential Scholar; one was the president of the National Association of Student Councils; and one was a high school wrestling champion of Iowa. There are 96 in the class now, indicating a dropout rate far lower than most institutions.

The second charter class of 100 enrolls in September 1965. Early reports show that this second class should equal in every respect the caliber of the first. Entering classes are held at 100 to give time to evaluate the academic program with a small group and to keep pace with the building program.

FACULTY: The Charter Faculty came to New College from campuses all over the nation and studies abroad. There was an immediate response of student to faculty, giving credence to the proposition that close contact is essential in higher education. Special mathematics study, seminars in ethics, literature, embryology, classical history, economics and history have been offered by the faculty to meet discovered student interests.

While additions have been made to course offerings and changes in course content, the educational philosophy of the college has remained steadfast. There has sometimes been a difference of opinion over the method of achieving the academic goals, seldom over the goals themselves. Absorbing 22 faculty, each from a different campus and each with his own personal philosophy, into a unified program without problems would be impossible anywhere. Attempting this in one year is doubly difficult. Some changes have been made in order to maintain the academic direction. This has brought some serious and healthy debate. As in any discourse, there is benefit in its trials.

New faculty are being recruited now for the second year to join those on the charter faculty. New areas of study will be covered. The teaching workload will be more evenly distributed as second year subjects are added and more specialization is begun by most students. Appointment of a new chief academic officer of renown is to be announced soon.

One of the measures of the institution and its academic program has been noted in the various certifications which the college has received while awaiting formal accreditation, which by regulation will be 1968 at the earliest. The accrediting association executive officer has written, "It is our firm belief that New College will proceed toward accreditation easily within the normal period established by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools."

Endorsements have been received from leading graduate schools concerning acceptance of New College graduates. The college has been approved for federal loans for residence hall buildings on the East Campus, for National Defense Education Act loan funds, and for enrolling veterans and war orphans. Each approval demands highest standards.

CAMPUS LIFE: Students now take part in dramatics, golf, tennis, basketball, soccer and sailing. They publish their own newspaper and literary magazine. They participate actively in the Florida West Coast Symphony Orchestra and in the symphony's Youth Orchestra, in choral groups, community churches and synagogues, and they plan and work on their own social affairs.

LEADERSHIP: A 28-man Board of Trustees has drawn the blueprint for development of New College and watches its progress closely. Most of the founding trustees still serve on the board, attesting to their continued interest and faith for the future. To their number have been added a number of outstanding men and women such as Dr. Henry Chauncey, President, Educational Testing Service; Louis H. LaMotte, Chairman Executive and Finance Committee, International Business Machines Corp.; Carroll V. Newsom, President, Prentice-Hall, Inc.; Dallas Dort, rancher and businessman; Fred D. Learey, President, General Telephone Company of Florida. These men and women give extensively of both their time and resources, visiting the campus frequently for meetings and acting in the best interests of the college in their own communities.

FACILITIES: From the opening of classes, students and faculty have been making good use of available space while new facilities are under construction. College Hall has been adapted to all-college lectures and also houses the library, classrooms, student lounge, language laboratory, student dining facilities and offices. While awaiting completion of their new residence halls, most students have been housed in two on-campus buildings. Other structures contain

administrative offices, faculty offices, bookstore, and a science workshop, where one student currently is building a cyclotron.

The East Campus residence halls, designed by famed architect I. M. Pei (recently selected in competition to design the John F. Kennedy Memorial Library in Boston), will be occupied early in March. Completion is taking longer than projected - yet the alternative was sacrificing quality to save a few weeks on buildings expected to last many decades.

Almost ready for start of construction are designs for a teaching auditorium to provide more lecture and classroom space. It will also be used as a small theater. Plans are due soon for the dining room and auxiliary classrooms which are in Phase II of the East Campus development program for use during 1965-66. A science building constructed on campus will be freed from its temporary housing use and will be filled with laboratory furniture and equipment which is all on hand.

The college is now drawing up plans to add to College Hall for the expansion of the library. Next year, this extension should take up most of this magnificent building. The library, by the way, has been developing steadily. The book collection, together with faculty libraries available in faculty offices, brings to 25,000 the number of volumes available to students. Thousands of others are available through cross reference with the Ringling Museum collection and through inter-library loan.

RESOURCES: In May 1962, the Sarasota-Bradenton community proudly reached its initial goal of \$4 million for New College. Since then, additional gifts and pledges of approximately \$5 million have been given, so that the total now is at the \$9 million mark.

Funds are in hand and set aside for specific building projects. All money given and allocated for buildings is thus protected for use when the specific building is started. Total assets of the College had grown to \$9,359,000 by January 31, 1965.

Our stewardship of college funds is audited annually by the national firm of Haskins & Sells. As of our August 31, 1964, audit, we could report their approval of college management of funds and the fact that the college opened for its first classes with its books in the black. Copies of this annual audited report are available at the office of the Director of Business Affairs.

Several years ago the late Alfred Whitney Griswold, president of Yale University, reprinted a letter from one of the institution's alumni written in 1831. It said:

"Yale College has long been, and is now, in a very precarious situation with regard to funds..." and then observed that, a crisis has therefore arrived in the affairs of Yale College. Unless something is done now to support this great and useful seminary of learning, it must inevitably go down."

That alumnus, Cortlandt Van Rensselaer, was appealing for a capital fund of \$100,000 to yield an annual income of \$6,000, which would then keep

Yale College alive. Of course, the appeal was successful and today Yale's endowment has risen to more than \$300,000,000!

Like the Yale of 1831, New College has a critical need for a flow of operating income. But unlike Yale of 1831 or today, New College has no wealthy alumni to ask for help. In fact, New College has no alumni at all but must rely on those many loyal friends who have been so much a part of its founding and understand the needs of a new venture that aims high.

This year, we have a total operating and capital budget of \$3,500,000. This goes for faculty and staff salaries, for library books, erecting new buildings, interest and amortization, classroom equipment, and a host of day to day concerns.

Of this total, we have been successful in funding all but \$711,000.

We are searching every possible source for new funds to provide this amount, and we also must turn to all friends of the college for help. Starting New College was and will remain a calculated risk. With admittedly high goals, with a small student body and therefore proportionately low income, New College has held fast to its standards, over a necessarily precarious early existence.

What has been done so far could not have been done without the help of many hands and many hearts. People have contributed generously of themselves and their resources. This is what has made New College a product not alone of its students and faculty, but the result of concerted effort by hundreds in the Sarasota-Bradenton area, in Florida, and throughout the nation, who believed in the possibility and have worked toward the reality of everything that New College symbolizes. Thus, to move ahead, we must overcome our next critical hurdle: raising \$711,000 to fund our operations for the remaining half of this fiscal year, which ends August 31, 1965.

The help of everyone is needed. We know there is a need for New College in American higher education. The words of Yale's Cortlandt Van Rensselaer, *"the alternative is left, either to suffer this venerable and eminently useful institution to decline, or to appeal as a last resort, to the liberality of educated private citizens..."* well express the final message of this report.



George F. Baughman,
PRESIDENT.

NEW COLLEGE

SARASOTA, FLORIDA